

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Circular from the Surgeon-General U. S. A.—[We take pleasure in calling attention to the following circular, which we take for granted is all that is necessary to secure the cordial and general co-operation of the profession in the collection of the information desired by the Surgeon-General. The facts thus accumulated cannot fail to contribute to the advancement of our science, and be most useful to the profession :—]

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., Feb. 20, 1863.

The Surgeon-General would remind the medical profession that, some months since, a medical officer was detailed by the department to prepare the surgical history of the rebellion. It is intended that this history shall embrace, among other topics, the collected results of the gunshot injuries of the war, and of the operations performed for their relief.

Many facts, bearing on these subjects, can be obtained by an examination of the returns of the various military hospitals; and explicit orders have been issued to the surgeons in charge as to the manner of reporting. Yet it is found, practically, that the results of all cases cannot be included in these reports.

In every depot of wounded, and after every action, there exists a large class of injured men, who, in various stages of convalescence, pass from the observation and treatment of the military surgeon, and are lost sight of by the medical department. These patients are those who are either furloughed or discharged the service by military authority before their treatment is entirely terminated. Under such circumstances, all past records of these cases are rendered valueless from the absence of a positive knowledge of their results.

To remedy this evil the Surgeon-General appeals to the profession of the country, and solicits their co-operation. He would ask every physician and surgeon who may be called upon to treat any officer or soldier wounded in service, carefully to note the results of the case, to record his observations, and, when the case shall have terminated, to transmit a copy of his observations to the Surgeon-General's office.

The following form is suggested :—

FORM. Date of Communication.
Name and Address of Physician forwarding it.

Character of Injury.

	Where wounded and date.	To what hospital transported.	What operations, &c., performed.	By whom performed.	Date of furlough or discharge.	Present condition of patients. Account of case. Treatment, &c. Result.
Patient's name and age.						
" rank.						
" regiment & Co.						
" postal address.						

In all cases of recovery after *excisions* of bone, the amount and character of the movements executed by the patient, with the injured limb, should be accurately described. Where amputation has been practised, the character of the stump should be noted, especially when the operation has been performed through an articulation. In cases of compound fracture the point of fracture should be stated, as also the degree of efficiency of the limb remaining after treatment. In compound fractures of the femur the amount of shortening should be measured, and the strength and usefulness of the limb described. In those patients in whom injuries of the skull have occurred, or upon whom the trephine has been applied, the mental and physical conditions should alike be dwelt upon.

In thus placing before the profession the objects he desires to obtain, the Surgeon-General trusts that he will meet with active co-operation. By the means above indicated much information that is valuable may be collected, and the interests of the science of surgery materially advanced.

W. A. HAMMOND,
Surgeon-General U. S. A.

Medical journals will please copy.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

Double Vision with each and both Eyes.—Dr. G. A. BETHUNE records (*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, February 12, 1863), the following example of this remarkable disturbance of vision:—

"Mrs. —, aged 37, the wife of a physician, and who had formerly taught in one of the highest of our private schools, consulted me first on the 10th of March, 1862. Naturally far-sighted, and without previous trouble in the eyes, eighteen months ago, after unusual exertion in studying, she was seized with double vision with each and both eyes. She suffers no pain, photophobia, or other subjective symptom. This diplopia does not extend to very near objects, the nearest point being from four to five feet. The new moon she describes as seeing with four horns. The false image seems always to the *left*, except in the case of horizontal lines, as, for instance, a telegraph wire, when it appears *below*. The appearances are the same with either eye covered. By bending the head, she *thinks* to the *left*, the two images coincide. She thinks there has been no variation in the double vision since she first observed it, *when the circumstances are the same*. She observes it more when looking towards the sky, and in clear light, than when the light is weaker.

"She is rather a delicate-looking person, though her general health is good. Her hands and feet are apt to be cold. About six months ago she was attacked with tinnitus of both ears, which still continues.

"On examination, the only abnormal appearance in the eyes is a little *tinea ciliaris*. She was advised to rest the eyes, to apply a lotion of acetate of lead to them, and a stimulating lotion to the spine. To take sherry wine, and exercise in the open air up to her strength.

"*Jan. 17, 1863.*—Was again seen to-day. No change in eyes. Other things as above, except that the tinnitus has diminished. The left pupil was dilated with atropine, and the eye examined with Burow's ophthalmoscope. *Nothing abnormal seen*. Two repetitions of this examination, on different days, were made with the same result."

Chestnut Leaves in Whooping-Cough.—Mr. GEORGE C. CLOSE, of Brooklyn, N. Y., speaks highly of the efficacy of the chestnut leaves in whooping-cough. He states that by the recommendation of a physician of New York he gave to